has also stated that due to severe constraint on resources, the project has not been started so far. As this is an important project, will the Government explore the possibility of getting external assistance to undertake further study?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you make further study? That is what he wants to know.

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA: Not at present.

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what has happened to the proposed ferro-metal plant that was to be put up in Orissa.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This relates to the nickel plant.

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA: Sir, I will reply. The Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation Limited of Orissa was granted a letter of intent in February 1984 for 10,000 tonnes of ferro-nickel metal in 1984. The Government of Orissa requested the transfer of the letter of intent to the Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa, a public sector undertaking. The Government of India allowed this transfer. The earlier letter of intent dated 29-2-1984 for the production of 10,000 tonnes per annum of a particular type of ferro-nickel granted to the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation Limited stands transferred to the IDCOL, and the capacity has been raised to 15,000 tonnes per annum.

श्री रामचन्द्र मारवाज : मान्यवर मैं माननीया मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि सारे देश में निकल का कितना डिपाजिट है और स्टेटवाइज उनकी क्या पोजीशन है, राज्यों की अलग-अलग क्या स्थिति है ? कितना हम एक्सट्रेक्ट कर पा रहे हैं और अगर नहीं कर पा रहे हैं तो हमारा काम कैसे चलता है ?

श्रीमती रामदुलारी सिन्हा : श्रीमन्, निकल ओर के रिजर्व तो थ्रू आउट इंडिया में हैं हां नहीं । यह उड़ीसा में है और जैसा कि अभी कहा गया यह सुकिण्डा में है । यहां पर 154 मिलियन टन्स ओर का डिपाजिट है जिसमें ओर ग्रेड 1.05 परसेंट है और जो बाकी बचता है वह सिमलीपाल और मयूरभंज डिस्ट्रिक्ट में उड़ीसा में पड़ता है । जहां तक हमारे टोटल रिक्वायरमेंट आफ निकल का सवाल है तो यह विदेशों से मंगाया जाता है जसे यू० एस० ए०, आस्ट्रेलिया, कनाडा एण्ड यू० के० और इन्हीं से हमारा टोटल इम्पोर्ट, हमारा रिक्वायरमेंट पूरा होता है । अभी फिलहाल निकल ओर के एक्सट्रेक्शन का सवाल सरकार के सामने नहीं है ।

Payment of provident fund amount to factory workers in Delhi

*302. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of textile mills, chemical industries and tyre factories in and around Delhi who retired/died in 1984 and in 1985 so far and whose provident fund dues have not yet been paid;

(b) what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to expedite the payment of Provident Fund dues to the retired employees/heirs of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) There are 424 textile mills, chemical industries and tyre factories (rubber and rubber products) with 27073 subscribers covered under the EPF Act in Delhi. The provident fund accounts in respect of the employees of 398 establishments out of a

total of 424, are maintained by the Provident Fund Organisation while the remaining 26 establishments are exempted from the operation of the EPF Scheme and the provident fund account of their employees are maintained by their respective Board of Trustees. The retiring employees heirs of deceased employees are required to file their claim with the Provident Fund authorities or other Board of Trustees. as the case may be. According to available information the provident fund dues have not been paid in 24 cases, as per details given below:—

	1984		1985		Total
	Retirement cases	Death cases	Retirement cases	Death cases	
Unexempted Establishments	..		..	16	18
Exempted Establishments . . .	2	..	2	2	6
	2	2	2	18	24

(b) and (c) 24 claims mentioned above are reported to be pending for either non-submission of claims in the prescribed form or non furnishing of particulars regarding family members/ guardianship cetificate|date of death| payment of contributions etc. by either the claimant or the employer of the deceased member. The provident fund authorities have advised the claimants to furnish the required documents. They are also taking action to procure the wanting documents from the employer by deputing their inspectors to the concerned factory| establishments. The exempted establishments have also been advised to take similar action in respect of the claims pending with their Board of Trustees.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: May I know from the honourable Labour Minister if there cases where the claims of the retiring employees have been filed in prescribed forms and all particulars regarding members of the family in case of the employee's death have been submitted to the Provident Fund authorities or the Board of Trustees in the case of exempted establishments but the payment of provident fund has been made only on paper and the amount of provident fund, has actually not been released? If so, what are the considerations for which payments have been withheld because, as far as I know, provident fund dues cannot be adjusted against any other dues standing against the employees?

SHRI T. ANJAIAH: There are only 24 cases and we are disposing of the same quickly as and when we get their applications.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: May I know what the stipulated time is by which the provident fund dues of an employee must be discharged after submission of the claims or in case of death of an employee, after submission of the prescribed forms giving particulars of his heirs? Is there any machinery other than that of Inspectors to monitor and to ensure compliance of the time-limit by the managements?

SHRI T. ANJAIAH: We can dispose of these cases within twenty days.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any authority to monitor the payments?

SHRI T. ANJAIAH: We have got our Provident Fund Inspectors.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Are there cases which are pending since and which had originated earlier than 1984-85? If so, at what stage are they? If the time involved is too long according to the Minister, should not penal steps be taken in such cases?

SHRI T. ANJAIAH: We can dispose of these cases within twenty days. We have got only 24 cases in Delhi I have already said it. There is another question, No. 320 related to this. If you link your question to that question. I can give you the answer as to how many have been prosecuted, how many have been sent to jail what the amount of arrears is, State-wise information we have.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Do I understand that before 1984 there were no cases for 1983 or earlier? You have given figures for 1984-85 only.

SHRI T. ANJAIAH: She asked that question. If you ask another question, I shall answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: His answer is in relation to the question which deals with 1984.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: But the sub-title of the question is about provident fund dues. On the basis I have asked my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot ask that question. That is why you did not get an answer.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: The honurable Minister said nearly 26 establishments have been exempted from this scheme. What is the reason for exemption? What are the alternatives available to the employees who have been deprived of the facility?

SHRI T. ANJAIAH: We are not happy to give exemption. We give exemption only when the workers insist. Here they themselves wanted it; they said whatever arrangements the managements have made will do for them. That is why they are exempted.

Pollution control measures for the Chlorine plant of Shriram Food and Fertilizer industries

†*303. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA:‡
SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee of experts set up to examine the safety and pollution control measures of the chlorine plant of the Shriram Food and Fertilizer Industries at Najafgarh Road, Delhi has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, what are the findings of the committee and what action Government have taken or propose to take thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below)

Statement

The Expert Committee on Shriram Food & Fertilizer Industries, in its report on the chlorine palnt of that unit, submitted to Delhi Administration on the 18th September, 1985, had observed that total elimination of the risk to the community from toxic plant/hazardous industry located in close proximity is improvable. The Committee had further added that the probability of risk can be immensely reduced if the plant is run with adequate precautions. The Committee had

†Previously Starred Question 143, transferred from the 28th November, 1985.

‡The question was actually asked on on the floor of the House by Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya.